

# PRESS RELEASE

April 6, 2006

**RE: UNITED STATES v. DENNIS CECALA**

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced today that Dennis Cecala, age 44, of Springville, New York, pled guilty today before the Honorable John T. Elfvin, United States District Judge, to possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B). At sentencing, Cecala faces a minimum mandatory sentence of ten (10) years imprisonment and a maximum penalty of twenty (20) years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison P. Gioia, who is handling the case, stated that Cecala was convicted in 1999 of Sexual Abuse 1<sup>st</sup> which involved sexual contact with an individual less than 11 years old. In addition, Gioia further stated that by entering the plea of guilty, Cecala admitted that he had engaged in a pattern of activity involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor. Moreover, Cecala admitted that he possessed material that portrayed sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence. Finally, Cecala admitted that he possessed in excess of 600 images of child pornography. As part of his agreement to plead guilty, Cecala has agreed to a sentence of 20 years in prison. Cecala remains in the custody of the United States Marshal pending sentencing. Sentencing is scheduled for July 14, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. before the Honorable John T. Elfvin.

The guilty plea was the result of an investigation by the Innocent Images National Initiative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Acting Special Agent-in-Charge Karen E. Spangenberg.